

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE,
Friday, September 10, 1943.

Press Service
No. 38-54

The Treasury announced today it will pay a \$500 reward to Vincent Marberg, Seattle, Washington, taxicab driver, whose alertness contributed to the capture of an elaborate counterfeiting plant and arrest of three traffickers in very deceptive bogus \$10 and \$20 Federal Reserve notes.

Marberg directed Secret Service agents to a hotel where he had left a fare after receiving a \$10 note of which he was properly suspicious. Upon his identification, the agents arrested Harold K. Ashby. Ashby had 47 of the bogus notes in his possession. Marberg recalled that Ashby had addressed a companion on the taxi ride as "Joe", and the officers promptly identified the second suspect as Joel L. Parsons, who had been arrested with Ashby three years ago in a bogus coin case.

They found Parsons at his home, and from a slip of paper Parsons carried bearing a telephone number and an address, moved on to arrest Marion J. Williams at a Seattle hotel. Williams had 175 of the notes on his person. The counterfeiting plant was found in the basement of Williams' home in Bremerton, Washington, on August 11. A number of partially printed notes were seized there, together with plates and other printing equipment.

The counterfeit \$20 San Francisco Federal Reserve note first appeared at El Paso in May of this year, and was good enough to fool several merchants. A similar bogus \$10 note appeared at Seattle in July. Recognizing these notes as the most serious counterfeiting threat in recent years, Frank J. Wilson, Chief of the Secret Service, posted the reward offer from which Warberg will benefit. Only 10 of the \$20 notes and 17 of the \$10 counterfeits are known to have been passed.

Chief Wilson pointed out that Marberg's actions in scrutinizing the money he received, "spotting" his customer when he suspected the note, and promptly notifying Secret Service officers, carried out faithfully the instructions of the Division's "Know Your Money" educational program which has reduced losses to the public from counterfeits 95 percent in

recent years and increased the hazards of this criminal activity to such an extent that it has shrunk to negligible proportions.

Marberg knew nothing of the reward offer when he contacted the Secret Service. The Secret Service here was advised today that Williams had been sentenced in Federal Court to ten years' imprisonment, Parsons to six years, and Ashby to five. Williams has served two previous prison terms for counterfeiting.

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